CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claim 7, as indicated below, so that after entry of the amendment the claims will read as follows:

1. (Original) An underground cable laying apparatus, comprising:

a mounting yoke;

a pair of angularly displaced turf slicing wheels rotatably coupled to the mounting yoke, the turf slicing wheels defining a forward contact area therebetween; and

a cable guide tube positioned anterior of the forward contact area of the turf slicing wheels, the cable guide tube having a cable inlet and a cable outlet.

2. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pair of turf slicing wheels are angularly displaced relative to one another along both a horizontal and a vertical axis of the mounting yoke.

3. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a turf closure housing pivotally coupled relative to the mounting yoke; and

a pair of angularly positioned turf closing wheels rotatably coupled to the turf closure housing.

4. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a pair of closure assembly mounting arms fixably coupled to the mounting yoke, and wherein the turf closure housing is pivotally coupled to the closure assembly mounting arms.

5. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 4, wherein the turf closure housing includes at least one positioning member adapted to contact at least one of the closure assembly mounting arms to limit pivotal travel of the turf closure housing in at least one direction.

6. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a feed tube support extension member coupled to the cable guide tube in proximity to the cable outlet.

7. (Currently amended)The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cable guide coupled to the cable ~~feed~~ guide tube and displaced from the cable inlet to aid in guiding cable into the cable inlet.

8. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cable guide tube is curved from the cable inlet to the cable outlet.

9. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a turf follower spring coupled between the mounting yoke and the turf closure housing.

10. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a spring tension nut positioned to vary a bias force supplied by the turf follower spring.

11. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cable feed guide mechanism positioned in proximity to the cable outlet, anterior to the cable guide tube.

12. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cable feed guide mechanism is a guide wheel having a groove around an outer periphery thereof sized to accommodate the cable to be laid.

13. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a guide wheel cleaning mechanism operably to the guide wheel to remove foreign debris therefrom.

14. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 13, wherein the guide wheel cleaning mechanism comprises a groove cleaning rod positioned within the groove of the guide wheel.

15. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 14, wherein the guide wheel cleaning mechanism further comprises wheel edge scrapers positioned along either side of the guide wheel.

16. (Original) The underground cable laying apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting yoke includes at least one mounting receptacle.

17. (Original) An apparatus for laying cable under turf without leaving a visibly obvious scar in the turf, comprising:

a mounting yoke having at least one mounting receptacle defined therein;

a pair of turf slicing wheels rotatably mounted on the mounting yoke, the turf slicing wheels being positioned in a diverging relationship to one another such that a slit is opened in the turf when the pair of turf slicing wheels is pulled therethrough; and

a cable feed tube positioned between the pair of turf slicing wheels and terminating in a cable outlet positioned to guide the cable into the slit opened by the pair of turf slicing wheels.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a turf closure assembly operably coupled to the mounting yoke and positioned relative to the pair of turf slicing wheels to close the slit in the turf opened thereby anterior of the cable outlet.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the turf closure assembly comprises a pair of turf closing wheels angularly positioned relative to one another and laterally displaced from one another a distance greater than a lateral spacing at a trailing edge of the pair of turf slicing wheels.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a cable feed guide mechanism positioned anterior and vertically downward of the cable outlet relative to a surface of the turf to position the cable within the slit in the turf and to protect an outer surface of the cable from scraping.

21. (Original) A method of laying cable under a lawn, comprising the steps of:
lowering a pair of turf slicing wheels into the lawn;
moving the pair of turf slicing wheels through the lawn to open a slit therein;
guiding cable into the slit in the lawn; and
closing the slit after the cable has been positioned therein.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of moving the pair of turf slicing wheels through the lawn comprises the step of moving the pair of turf slicing wheels through the lawn such that the pair of turf slicing wheels rotate.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of watering the lawn prior to the steps of lowering, moving, guiding, and closing.